

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 12-17 as follows:

1. (ORIGINAL) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of programs, a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of programs, and a third service network broadcasting a third signal having a third set of programs, wherein the first signal, the second signal, and the third signal each include service channels uniquely identified by a service channel identifier, a method of providing a unified program guide to a receiver station, comprising the steps of:

merging at least a portion of a first program guide describing at least a portion of the first set of programs with at least a portion of a second program guide describing at least a portion of the second set of programs to produce a unified program guide describing at least a portion of a union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs;

mapping at least a portion of the unified program guide to a first service channel of the first signal and the second signal; and

mapping the portion of the unified program guide to a second service channel of the third signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

associating a default transmitting network identifier with all of the viewer channels, the default transmitting network identifier having a value identifying a default service network transmitting the unified program guide.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the unified program guide;

determining a receiver station configuration; and

presenting the unified program guide if the default transmitting network identifier corresponds to the receiving station configuration.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

associating a viewer channel with each of the programs in the portion of the union of the first set of programs, the second set of programs, and the third set of programs;

associating a transmitting network identifier with at least one viewer channel, the transmitting network identifier having a value identifying the service network transmitting the viewer channel; and

associating a channel identifier with at least one of the viewer channels, the channel identifier for controlling access to the program associated with the at least one viewer channel.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of:
determining if the viewer channel should be presented in the unified program guide based upon a comparison between the transmitting network identifier and the receiving station configuration, and upon a comparison between the channel identifier and a conditional access value.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 5, wherein the receiver station comprises a receiver, and the conditional access value is stored in a conditional access module releaseably coupleable to the receiver.

7. (ORIGINAL) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of programs and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of programs, wherein the first signal and the second signal each include service channels uniquely identified by a service channel identifier, a method of receiving a unified program guide to a receiving station, comprising the steps of:

receiving a unified program guide and a default transmitting network identifier at a receiving station on a first service channel, the unified program guide describing at least a portion of a union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs, and the default transmitting network identifier having a value identifying the service network transmitting the unified program guide;

presenting the unified program guide to a subscriber according to the default transmitting network identifier.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of presenting the unified program guide to the subscriber according to the default transmitting network identifier comprises the steps of:

receiving the unified program guide;

determining a receiver station configuration; and

presenting the unified program guide if the default transmitting network identifier corresponds to the receiving station configuration.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 8, wherein:

a viewer channel is associated with each of the programs in the portion of the union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs;

a transmitting network identifier is associated with at least one viewer channel, the transmitting network identifier having a value identifying the service network transmitting the viewer channel; and

a channel identifier is associated with at least one of the viewer channels, the channel identifier for controlling access to the program associated with the at least one viewer channel.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of presenting the unified program guide to the subscriber further comprises the step of:

determining if the viewer channel should be presented in the unified program guide based upon a comparison between the transmitting network identifier and the receiving station configuration, and upon a comparison between the channel identifier and a conditional access value.

11. (ORIGINAL) A program guide subsystem, usable with a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of programs, a second

service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of programs, a third service network broadcasting a third signal having a third set of programs, wherein the first signal, the second signal, and the third signal each include service channels uniquely identified by a service channel identifier, the program guide subsystem comprising:

a compiler, for merging at least a portion of a first program guide describing at least a portion of the first set of programs with at least a portion of a second program guide describing at least a portion of the second set of programs to produce a unified program guide describing at least a portion of a union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs; and

a controller for mapping at least a portion of the unified program guide to a first service channel of the first signal and a first service channel of the second signal, and for mapping at least a portion of the unified program guide to a second service channel of the third signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus subsystem of Claim [17] 11, wherein the program guide subsystem further associates a default transmitting network identifier with all of the viewer channels, the default transmitting network identifier having a value identifying a default service network transmitting the unified program guide.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus subsystem of Claim 12, further comprising a receiving station, the receiving station having:

a tuner, for receiving the unified program guide; and

a processor for determining a configuration of the receiving station and for presenting the unified program guide if the default transmitting network corresponds to the receiving station configuration.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus subsystem of Claim 13, wherein the tuner is communicatively coupled to a number of low noise block converters, and wherein the configuration of the receiving station is determined from the number of low noise block converters.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus subsystem of Claim 13, wherein the configuration of the receiving station is determined from a message from the broadcasting system.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus subsystem of Claim 13, wherein:

- the program guide subsystem associates a viewer channel with each of the programs in the portion of the union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs;
- the program guide subsystem associates a transmitting network identifier with at least one viewer channel, the transmitting network identifier having a value identifying the service network transmitting the viewer channel; and
- the program guide subsystem associates a channel identifier with at least one of the viewer channels, the channel identifier for controlling access to the program associated with the at least one viewer channel.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus subsystem of Claim 16, wherein the processor further comprises a module for determining if the viewer channel should be presented in the unified program guide based upon a comparison between the transmitting network identifier and the receiving station configuration, and upon a comparison between the channel identifier and a conditional access value.

18. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for use with a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of programs and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of programs, wherein the first signal and the second signal each include service channels uniquely identified by a service channel identifier, comprising:

- a tuner for receiving a unified program guide and a default transmitting network identifier at a receiving station on a first service channel, the unified program guide describing at least a portion of a union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs, and the default

transmitting network identifier having a value identifying the service network transmitting the unified program guide;

a module for presenting the unified program guide to a subscriber according to the default transmitting network identifier.

19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 18, further comprising:

a second module having instructions for determining a receiving station configuration; and

a third module for presenting the unified program guide if the default transmitting network identifier corresponds to the receiving station configuration.

20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein:

a viewer channel is associated with each of the programs in the portion of the union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs;

a transmitting network identifier is associated with at least one viewer channel, the transmitting network identifier having a value identifying the service network transmitting the viewer channel; and

a channel identifier is associated with at least one of the viewer channels, the channel identifier for controlling access to the program associated with the at least one viewer channel.

21. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 20, further comprising:

a fourth module for determining if the viewer channel should be presented in the unified program guide based upon a comparison between the transmitting network identifier and the receiving station configuration, and upon a comparison between the channel identifier and the conditional access value.

22. (ORIGINAL) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of programs, a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of programs, and a third service network broadcasting a third

signal having a third set of programs, wherein the first signal, the second signal, and the third signal each include service channels uniquely identified by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for providing a unified program guide to a receiver station, comprising:

means for merging at least a portion of a first program guide describing at least a portion of the first set of programs with at least a portion of a second program guide describing at least a portion of the second set of programs to produce a unified program guide describing at least a portion of a union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs;

means for mapping at least a portion of the unified program guide to a first service channel of the first signal and the second signal; and

means for mapping the portion of the unified program guide to a second service channel of the third signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel.

23. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 22, further comprising:

means for associating a default transmitting network identifier with all of the viewer channels, the default transmitting network identifier having a value identifying a default service network transmitting the unified program guide.

24. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving the unified program guide;

means for determining a receiver station configuration; and

means for presenting the unified program guide if the default transmitting network identifier corresponds to the receiving station configuration.

25. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 24, further comprising:

means for associating a viewer channel with each of the programs in the portion of the union of the first set of programs, the second set of programs, and the third set of programs;

means for associating a transmitting network identifier with at least one viewer channel, the transmitting network identifier having a value identifying the service network transmitting the viewer channel; and

means for associating a channel identifier with at least one of the viewer channels, the channel identifier for controlling access to the program associated with the at least one viewer channel.

26. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 25, further comprising:

means for determining if the viewer channel should be presented in the unified program guide based upon a comparison between the transmitting network identifier and the receiving station configuration, and upon a comparison between the channel identifier and a conditional access value.

27. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the receiver station comprises a receiver, and the conditional access value is stored in a conditional access module releaseably coupleable to the receiver.

28. (ORIGINAL) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of programs and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of programs, wherein the first signal and the second signal each include service channels uniquely identified by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for providing a unified program guide to a receiving station, comprising:

means for receiving a unified program guide and a default transmitting network identifier at a receiving station on a first service channel, the unified program guide describing at least a portion of a union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs created by merging at least a portion of a first program guide describing at least a portion of the first set of programs with at least a portion of a second program guide describing at least a portion of the second set of programs, and the default transmitting network identifier having a value identifying the service network transmitting the unified program guide; and

means for presenting the unified program guide to a subscriber according to the default transmitting network identifier.

29. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the means for presenting the unified program guide to the subscriber according to the default transmitting network identifier comprises:

means for receiving the unified program guide;
means for determining a receiver station configuration; and
means for presenting the unified program guide if the default transmitting network identifier corresponds to the receiving station configuration.

30. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein:
a viewer channel is associated with each of the programs in the portion of the union of the first set of programs and the second set of programs;
a transmitting network identifier is associated with at least one viewer channel, the transmitting network identifier having a value identifying the service network transmitting the viewer channel; and
a channel identifier is associated with at least one of the viewer channels, the channel identifier for controlling access to the program associated with the at least one viewer channel.

31. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the step of presenting the unified program guide to the subscriber further comprises:

means for determining if the viewer channel should be presented in the unified program guide based upon a comparison between the transmitting network identifier and the receiving station configuration, and upon a comparison between the channel identifier and the conditional access value.